

Amended Regulations Dealing with Blowout Prevention Equipment

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has amended its regulations dealing with blowout prevention equipment testing requirements in 20 AAC 25.035(e)(10) and 20 AAC 25.285(f)(5). The amendment changes the type of test performed after installation of casing rams in the blowout preventer stack. A function-pressure test of the casing rams is now required before running casing or liner. It replaces the requirement to test only the ram bonnets. The Lieutenant Governor signed and filed the regulation changes on June 12, 2007, with an effective date of July 12, 2007.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the amended regulations, contact Jody Colombie at (907) 793-1221, fax (907) 276-7542, or e-mail Jody_Colombie@admin.state.ak.us.

20 AAC 25.035(e)(10) is amended to read:

(10) the BOPE must be tested as follows:

(A) when installed, repaired, or changed on a development or service well and at time intervals not to exceed each 14 days thereafter, BOPE, including kelly valves, emergency valves, and choke manifolds, must be function pressure-tested to the required working pressure specified in the approved Permit to Drill, using a non-compressible fluid, except that an annular type preventer need not be tested to more than 50 percent of its rated working pressure; however, the commission will require that the BOPE be function pressure-tested weekly, if the commission determines that a weekly BOPE pressure test interval is indicated by a particular drilling rig's BOPE performance;

(B) when installed, repaired, or changed on an exploratory or stratigraphic test well and at least once a week thereafter, BOPE, including kelly valves, emergency valves, and choke manifolds, must be function pressure-tested to the required working pressure specified in the approved Permit to Drill, using a non-compressible fluid, except that an annular type preventer need not be tested to more than 50 percent of its rated working pressure;

(C) if any BOP equipment components have been used for well control or other equivalent purpose, or when routine use of the equipment may have compromised its effectiveness, the components used must be function pressure-tested, before the next wellbore entry, to the required working pressure specified in the approved Permit to Drill, using a non-compressible fluid, except that an annular type preventer need not be tested to more than 50 percent of its rated working pressure;

(D) BOP ram and annular components except blind rams must be function-tested weekly, and all BOP ram and annular components must be function-tested after an action that disconnects the hydraulic system lines from the BOPE, except that if the workstring is continuously in the well, function-testing of blind rams must be performed as soon as possible after the workstring is pulled out of the well and the BHA clears the BOP;

(E) for each BOPE test during drilling and completion operations, variable bore rams must be function pressure-tested to the required pressure on the smallest outside diameter (OD) and largest outside diameter (OD) tubulars that may be used during that test cycle, except that variable bore rams need not be tested on BHAs and drill collars;

(F) after **they are installed** [INSTALLING CASING RAMS] in the BOP stack, the **rams for casing or liner** [RAM BONNETS] must be **function pressure-tested** [TESTED] to the required pressure before running casing;

(G) BOPE test results must be recorded as part of the daily record required by 20 AAC 25.070(1), and must be provided to the commission, in a format approved by the commission, within five days after completing the test;

(H) at least 24 hours notice of each BOPE function pressure test must be provided to the commission so that a commission representative can witness the test;

(Eff. 4/13/80, Register 74; am 2/22/81, Register 77; am 4/2/86, Register 97; am 11/7/99, Register 152; am 10/24/2004, Register 172; am 12/28/2006, Register 180; am ____/____/____, Register ____)

Authority: AS 31.05.030

20 AAC 25.285(f)(5) is amended to read:

(5) after **they are installed** [INSTALLING CASING RAMS] in the BOP stack,
the **rams for casing or liner** [RAM BONNETS] must be **function pressure-tested** [TESTED]
to the required pressure before running casing **or liner**;

(Eff. 4/2/86, Register 97; am 11/7/99, Register 152; am 12/28/2006, Register 180;

am ____/____/____, Register ____)

Authority: AS 31.05.030